

**Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0123

Resource Identification

Property Name(s): WFF # Z-065 - Blockhouse #1 {Current}
Property Date: 1952
Address(s): Island Road {Current}
County/Independent City: Accomack
Vicinity of: Chincoteague
State, Zip: Virginia 23337
USGS Quad Name: WALLOPS ISLAND
Surrounding area: Rural

National Register Eligibility Status

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Resource Description

Ownership Status: Public - Federal
Acreage: 0.5

Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Roof	Roof - Flat		Roof - Not visible
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry	Concrete	other
Windows	Windows - Fixed	Metal	Windows - 1-light
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		

Site Description: Located on west side of Island Road surrounded by a circular drive and a concrete launch area, Z-70 (001-0027-0124).

WUZIT Count:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Air-Related	Historic

NR Resource Count:

Individual Resource Information

WUZIT: Air-Related

Est. Date of Construction: 1952 {Owner/site visit} Accessed? No Not accessible
Primary Resource? Yes Number of Stories: 1.0
Architectural Style: Other Condition: Good
Interior Plan Type: Other Threats to Resource: Neglect

Description: This one-story masonry building has a poured concrete slab foundation and a flat roof that slightly overhangs the building on all four sides; the roof materials are not visible. The edge of the roof is clad with aluminum flashing arranged in three sections. Five small, fixed pane windows/observation ports in metal frames are recessed into the thick poured concrete walls of east elevation; a sixth is located on the east end of the south elevation. A set of metal double doors is located in the center of the north and south ends. A U-shaped section of wall immediately fronts the doors on both ends. The opening is covered by a sheet of corrugated metal that supported by an exposed metal framework; the coverings appear to be a modern addition. A set of metal double doors on the north end of the west elevation opens onto concrete pad; ghost marks along the edge indicate the pad was once the base of an addition or rear ell. The pad now serves as a base for raised HVAC units. A second concrete pad is located near the south end of the elevation.

Cemetery Information

Bridge Information

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National Register Eligibility Information

Historic Context(s): Technology/Engineering

Historic Time Period(s):..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

Significance Statement: This one-story building was built in 1952 by the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA) and was part of the second phase of permanent NACA construction efforts on Wallops Island. Originally known as Control Center 2, the building was constructed in anticipation of an increase in the number of launchings the early to mid-1950s. During that time, the building was used as a photographic laboratory and later as the sounding rocket control center facility, containing control equipment for tower and pad launchings of Launch Area 1. The building also contained a heating plant that was used to heat the Control Center and the Assembly Shop (001-0027-0113, WFF # Y-015), located to the north. The Control Center was constructed in the center of a paved, circular driveway, the east side of which connected to the original Launch Area 2 (001-0027-0124, WFF # Z-070), a 300' long by 50' wide strip on concrete that ran parallel to the shore and sea wall. Now part of the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), the building and structure are referred to as Blockhouse #1 and Launch Area #1 respectively.

The building is representative of a Technology/Engineering property type built at the beginning of the New Dominion Period (1945 – present) period. The building was constructed as a component of a rocket research facility operated by the Pilotless Aircraft Research Station (PARS) under the direction of NACA from 1946 to 1958. Until becoming part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, PARS functioned as a rocket research facility that continually refined its capacity to collect aeronautic and scientific data through improvements in radar tracking, radio telemetry, and photographic techniques that provided significant data for the development of Cold War missile technology and manned spaceflight during the Space Race.

Blockhouse #1 has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C or D.

The resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D. As a secondary resource, it does not by itself sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with events in order to be eligible under Criterion A, nor does it sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with a person in order to be eligible under Criterion B. The resource retains its integrity but as a secondary resource of common design and materials, the resource is not eligible under Criterion C as it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. This property does not have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory under Criterion D.

Bibliographic Documentation

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Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: U.S. Navy
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

Reference #: 2

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: U.S. Navy
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

Reference #: 3

Bibliographic RecordType: Book
Author: Joseph Adams Shortal
Citation Abbreviation: Shortal, 1978
Notes: "A New Dimension; Wallops Flight Test Range: The First Fifteen Years," NASA Reference Publication 1028. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Scientific and Technical Office: N.p., 1978.

Reference #: 4

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: Giffels and Valet
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

<u>Medium</u>	<u>Depository ID #</u>	<u>Photo Depository</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>File Name</u>
35mm B&W	21541	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 16-18, 21

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event # 1,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey
Date: 2004/07/99
Organization or Person: URS Group
VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571
CRM Event Notes or Comments: 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

CRM Event # 2,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey
Date: 2003/08/08
Organization or Person: URS Group
VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571
CRM Event Notes or Comments: 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814